

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 /074 W

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O P 071210Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2713

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LOME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 00190

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJECT: FMG CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER

ON ANGOLA

1. IN RESPONSE MY REQUEST FOR URGENT APPOINTMENT WITH GARBA
OR SANUSI, MEA AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR UCHUNO HAS JUST TELEPHONED
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TO EXPLAIN THAT THEY ARE BOTH EN ROUTE IKEJA AIRPORT. GARBA WILL

BE FLYING COMMERCIALY TO ADDIS ABABA FOR OAU CM MEETING. SANUSI WILL BE RETURNING TO MEA FROM AIRPORT THIS AFTERNOON BUT UCHUNO UNABLE TO PREDICT AT WHAT HOUR HE WILL BE AVAILABLE GIVEN EXTREME TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND POSSIBILITY OF DELAYED DEPARTURE OF AIRPLANE. I ASKED TO BE RECEIVED BY ANYONE ELSE AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN MEA. UCHUNO DEMURRED, STATING THAT "ONLY GARBA AND SANUSI ARE HANDLING THIS AFFAIR." I TOLD HIM I WAS OBLIGED TO PROTEST FMG STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER.

I WOULD NOT ADDRESS OUR DIFFERENCES ON SUBSTANCE, SINCE THESE HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY AIRED WITH GARBA AND SANUSI, BUT I COULD NOT LET REST THE VEHEMENCE OF FMG STATEMENT, ITS PUBLIC RELEASE, ITS CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT, AND THE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL US AFFAIRS IMPLIED BY THE STATEMENT THAT FORD ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO "REVERSE THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN ELECTORATE". I SAID SUCH A STATEMENT AND THE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO IT BY THE FMG COULD NOT HELP BUT COMPLICATE CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN US ON ISSUES OF SUCH IMPORTANCE. I ASKED UCHUNO TO TRANSMIT MY CONCERN TO SANUSI AS SOON AS HE WAS IN CONTACT WITH HIM, ALONG WITH MY REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT AT HIS EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. UCHUNO PROMISED TO RELAY THE MESSAGE AND THE REQUEST FOR AN APPOINTMENT, STATING HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME LATER IN THE DAY.

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